

**Proposed Oil and Gas Lease Sale  
In the Diapir Field**

***Public Hearings***

**Nuiqsut**

**1982**

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ALASKA O.C.S.

PUBLIC HEARING ON BEAUFORT SEA  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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N U I Q S U T  
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February 3, 1982

SPEAKERS IN NUIQSUT

- 1 Joe Tukle
- 2 Edward Nukapigak
- 3 Johnny Ahtuanguaruak
- 4 Sammy Kanaknana
- 5 Ruth Nukapigak
- 6 Thomas Napagiak - Mayor of Nuiqsut
- 7 Joe Ericklog - City Council
- 8 Eli Nukapigak - City Council
- 9 Joe Nukapigak
- 10 Ruth Sielak
- 11 Mark Ahmakak
- 12 Sarah Kunaknana
- 13 Sam Taalak
- 14 Joe Kunaknana
- 15 Bessie Ericklog
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P R O C E E D I N G S

1  
2 MR. EMERSON: We'd like to get started. I'll talk to  
3 you over there since the seating is filling in over there. My  
4 name is Ray Emerson. I'm from the Alaska Outer Continental  
5 Shelf Office in Anchorage. We're here tonight to comment on  
6 the Environmental Impact statement that has been prepared and  
7 some of you have received copies and, hopefully, had a chance  
8 to look over this document here for the Beaufort Sea area, the  
9 name is now, that we're using is the Adipar field. In any  
10 case, we are here tonight to hear your comments, your concerns  
11 about this assessment of the proposed oil and gas lease sale.  
12 If you're coming in, let me just say this, that we'd like you  
13 to sign in with Paul Dubski over here on my extreme right,  
14 over underneath the scoreboard there. Please leave your name  
15 with him and, also, if you wish to testify tonight, mention  
16 that to him and he will place you on the list of testifiers.  
17 We had planned to hold the hearing from 7:30 -- or actually  
18 from 7, but there was some misunderstanding on the starting  
19 time, so it's 7:30 to 11:30. But if we need additional time,  
20 why, we will take it.

21 Those of you that don't testify tonight can also send  
22 your comments into our office. We need to receive those by  
23 February 12th, if we could. And then we can address those  
24 issues and those issues will be discussed in the final  
25 Environmental Impact Statement which will be released in July

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1 of this year and you're concerns, the issues that you bring  
2 up tonight, as well as your written comments, will be included  
3 in that final Environmental Impact Statement.

4 First, let me introduce first of all the panel. On my  
5 left is Mr. Ralph Anger from Washington, D.C. He's with the  
6 Bureau of Land Management. And on my right is Barry Beaudreau  
7 with the -- well, used to be the Conservation Division of  
8 Geological Survey and now it's the Minerals and Management  
9 Service. So think of him somewhat as a geological surveyor,  
10 he still is.

11 As I say, if you are interested in testifying, you  
12 need to register your name with Paul Dubski over there.

13 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Excuse me, sir.

14 MR. EMERSON: Yes. Go ahead.

15 AUDIENCE MEMBER: The majority of the people speak  
16 Inupiat, do you have an interpreter?

17 MR. EMERSON: Yes, we do. Emma, would you like to go  
18 ahead now. You can use the microphone up here or just right  
19 there, if you wish. Thank you.

20 EMMA: (native language)

21 MR. EMERSON: If you could, hold your comments to a  
22 10-minute period. If you go over, why, that's fine, but  
23 those are the time frames that we would like to work with.  
24 There will be also a public hearing in Kaktovik tomorrow and  
25 Fairbanks and there's also, on Friday of this week a similar

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1 public hearing being held on the proposed lease sale in  
2 Anchorage.

3 EMMA: (native language)

4 MR. EMERSON: Also, if you have prepared copies of your  
5 testimony, we would like to have you leave a copy of that  
6 with us and Marsha Bennett -- Marsha, would you raise your  
7 hand -- would you give the copies to her so that we can have  
8 those for our use back at the Anchorage office?

9 Thomas (Indiscernible), did you wish to be first? We  
10 had you down here about fifth or sixth, but would you like  
11 to, as Mayor, be our first testifier tonight?

12 MAYOR: How's that?

13 MR. EMERSON: Would you like to testify first?

14 MAYOR: I'm not really prepared, I mean I haven't even  
15 gone through the EIS draft.

16 MR. EMERSON: Okay, our first speaker will be Joe  
17 Tookley.

18 JOE: (native language)

19 INTERPRETER: After looking at the map at Barrow and  
20 having seen the meeting at Barrow, I decided to come here  
21 and testify that this part of the lease sale contains the ocean.

22 JOE: (native language)

23 INTERPRETER: On behalf of the Nuigsut people, I have concern  
24 for the people of Nuigsut. After looking at the map, I saw that where you  
25 have your sale, where your lease sale is, on some areas they

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1 have fish, hunting, that are included around that area.

2 JOE: (native language)

3 INTERPRETER: What I think you have is -- I want to be  
4 here -- if they could wait for five years before they could  
5 do the proposed sale from Cape Halkett to Cross Island.

6 JOE: (native language)

7 INTERPRETER: And the food they have is precious to the  
8 people. Having been born here, there are also fine places for  
9 fish and there's also an area where they hunt for bearded seal.

10 JOE: (native language)

11 INTERPRETER: Also, you have hurt a lot of people through  
12 the radio yesterday from the meeting held at Barrow, did not  
13 want any proposed sale being done or to have any drillings  
14 being done from Cape Halkett to Cross Island or anywhere.

15 JOE: (native language)

16 INTERPRETER: Also, from the people's testimony, you  
17 have heard that ocean currents are very strong.

18 JOE: (native language)

19 INTERPRETER: In front of the islands the pressure  
20 reaches are very high, going up 20 feet. You have on your  
21 tract sale that part of where the reaches go up.

22 JOE: (native language)

23 INTERPRETER: I have said this before, yesterday, to  
24 you and I am going to say this to you so that the people  
25 can hear.

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1           JOE: (native language)

2           INTERPRETER: We have been hearing about your equipment  
3 that can be used for oil spill. The oil spill that you have  
4 talked about cannot be cleaned out under the ice conditions  
5 that we have here and they also kill off the animals.

6           JOE: (native language)

7           INTERPRETER: You have hurt these people and I will say  
8 it again, I do not want you to have the sale around that area  
9 or of, you know, the lease sale that you there, because we  
10 do not want any lease sale on there. And if you can wait five  
11 years for this, maybe he'll have something else to say about  
12 it.

13          JOE: (native language)

14          INTERPRETER: The animal habitat where we hunt are part  
15 of the people's property. And we invite people when we hunt  
16 and when we have game to come in and eat at our houses and we  
17 are happy to do that and we are concerned about our land and  
18 our hunting grounds. We do not want anybody to touch that  
19 area.

20          JOE: (native language)

21          INTERPRETER: Our parents -- when the first white man  
22 came, the Eskimos housed them and fed them with their own  
23 foods. In looking at our people of today some of them have  
24 gotten near to white people and if you could just at least  
25 wait for five years and look at what we are doing, we would be

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1 very happy for you to postpone the sale.

2 JOE: (native language)

3 INTERPRETER: I have much more to say but I want to  
4 have the other people to have a time to talk to you so we'll  
5 say a few more words after everybody has had their turn.

6 MR. EMERSON: Okay, thank you. We appreciate your  
7 testimony.

8 The next testifier is Edward Dukakpigak.

9 EDWARD: (native language)

10 INTERPRETER: I will say a few words concerning our  
11 ocean.

12 EDWARD: (native language)

13 INTERPRETER: Being an Eskimo and having lived around  
14 the ocean, I am really concerned and am opposing to your sale  
15 because I have used the ocean for food.

16 EDWARD: (native language)

17 INTERPRETER: When we had nothing to eat we went to the  
18 ocean for food, because the ocean has a lot of animals.

19 EDWARD: (native language)

20 INTERPRETER: I am opposing the lease sale or the  
21 drilling that is going to be done in that area.

22 EDWARD: (native language)

23 INTERPRETER: The land, as you can see, is big and if  
24 you cannot find anything inside the land, then you can go and  
25 drill towards the ocean.

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1 EDWARD: (native language)

2 INTERPRETER: I would like for you to look at -- not  
3 to overlook the area where the fish are there for spawning  
4 and where the people hunt for bearded seal.

5 EDWARD: (native language)

6 INTERPRETER: The ocean is very dangerous up here,  
7 even the ice reaches for as high and can be killers of human  
8 beings. You will only endanger your own life if you go  
9 ahead and drill where you want to drill.

10 EDWARD: (native language)

11 INTERPRETER: I have not been listening much to the  
12 testimony or have heard anything about concerning the lease  
13 sale and it would be more inviting if we had heard some more  
14 on this subject so that we could have more argument.

15 EDWARD: (native language)

16 INTERPRETER: I am really concerned about the ocean.  
17 That is where we get our food from. I am not really concerned  
18 about the land. But if you cannot find anything in the land,  
19 then you should at least wait and drill down to the ocean.

20 EDWARD: (native language)

21 INTERPRETER: The Colville River is the  
22 place where the whales go to and the seal animals are there,  
23 too. Fine food, so he's really concerned about that area.

24 EDWARD: (native language)

25 INTERPRETER: He's going to end his testimony right

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1 now but after he had heard some more comments from the people,  
2 from the audience, he will maybe have some more to say later  
3 on.

4 EDWARD: Thank you.

5 MR. EMERSON: Thank you very much.

6 Johnny Antuigawa.

7 JOHNNY: (native language)

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We can't hear on this side. I guess  
9 you have to make that louder.

10 JOHNNY: (continuing in native language)

11 INTERPRETER: Having been born and raised around  
12 (Indiscernible) and my people know this that are among me,  
13 I am concerned about the spawning place for the fish.

14 JOHNNY: (native language)

15 INTERPRETER: When the fish start spawning they go  
16 through Colville River, then they go down to the ocean to  
17 hatch their eggs.

18 JOHNNY: (native language)

19 INTERPRETER: After they have hatched their eggs,  
20 after the river is more like flooded over, then they go back  
21 to where they came from.

22 JOHNNY: (native language)

23 INTERPRETER: The fish know where to go.

24 JOHNNY: (native language)

25 INTERPRETER: We did not have oil then, when I was

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1 growing up. We had coal when we were growing up at  
2 (Indiscernible).

3 JOHNNY: (native language)

4 INTERPRETER: In my mind it is not in my vision to sell.  
5 If you can find anywhere, if you can find oil inland it is  
6 okay, but if you can't find anything down in the land, then  
7 you can go ahead and go down to the ocean.

8 JOHNNY: (native language)

9 INTERPRETER: He doesn't have much more to say. He's  
10 giving the other people a chance to speak.

11 MR. EMERSON: Thank you.

12 Let's see, I guess this is our next testifier. That  
13 will be fine. What is your name, please?

14 Samuel (Indiscernible)

15 MR. EMERSON: Okay, go ahead, please.

16 SAMUEL: (native language)

17 INTERPRETER: I will say a few words, having lived  
18 here and having hunted here.

19 SAMUEL: (native language)

20 INTERPRETER: What we call animals, we have ate them,  
21 we have lived upon them.

22 SAMUEL: (native language)

23 INTERPRETER: Having lived here, I know that we cannot  
24 live without oil.

25 SAMUEL: (native language)

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1 INTERPRETER: The animals are sensitive to the smell  
2 of anything and they can go a different route when they smell  
3 something.

4 SAMUEL: (native language)

5 INTERPRETER: From Colville River to (Indiscernible),  
6 all these years that I have lived here, we have been abundant  
7 in bearded seal, water fowl, any kind of water fowl, ducks.

8 SAMUEL: (native language)

9 INTERPRETER: Around April in Colville River, more  
10 seal can be seen lying about around on the ocean, more seal  
11 than you can see.

12 MR. EMERSON: Could I ask how far up the Colville River  
13 are we talking?

14 SAMUEL: (native language)

15 INTERPRETER: Do you know where your tracks are? Half-  
16 way, you follow the Colville River and then go halfway there's  
17 an island there. Follow the Colville River and then go half-  
18 way where your blocks are, and then there's an island there  
19 and that's what he's talking about.

20 SAMUEL: (native language)

21 INTERPRETER: Why don't we have a brief recess. These  
22 people do not seem to know what you people are here for, so  
23 I can say that in Inupiat. It would really help these people  
24 tremendously. They don't seem to have anything to say on  
25 this, okay?

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1 MR. EMERSON: Okay, let's take about a 10-minute break.  
2 Would you like to talk....

3 INTERPRETER: I'll talk to these people, yes.

4 - B R E A K -

5 MR. EMERSON: Okay, we'd like to continue and I want  
6 to remind you again that you can still submit your comments  
7 regarding this proposed action up until February 12th.

8 INTERPRETER: (native language)

9 MR. EMERSON: We'll also be leaving some additional  
10 copies of the Environmental Impact Statement for those people  
11 that would like one.

12 INTERPRETER: (native language)

13 MR. JEFFERY: If I could just ask, we could if you want  
14 make a tape that if it turns out well could be put in (indis-  
15 cernible). If you'd like that, I could try it. I don't  
16 know if it would turn out. If you'd rather not, I won't.

17 INTERPRETER: Is that the tape of mine?

18 MR. JEFFERY: No, we'd make a tape, you know, try and  
19 pick up people and then.... if you want, we can do it.

20 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm sure, Mr. Jeffery, that all the  
21 other villages are really wanting to listen to our comments  
22 here in this village here. And they'll be asking questions  
23 how come we don't have any tapes or any radio.

24 MR. JEFFERY: Well, if you'd like, I'll try.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: We hardly listen to the radio.

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1 MR. JEFFERY: Some people do.

2 INTERPRETER: A lot of them didn't know about this  
3 meeting and what it was about.

4 MR. JEFFERY: Yeah, that's too bad.

5 INTERPRETER: Even though it's been broadcast three or  
6 four times a day.

7 MR. JEFFERY: I know.

8 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Yeah, we would appreciate if you  
9 would send a tape to be broadcast.

10 MR. JEFFERY: Yeah, we'll give it a try anyway. Just  
11 might work. Okay.

12 INTERPRETER: (native language)

13 I just mentioned that in the future when you have  
14 something like this, since a lot of people do not listen to  
15 their radios, that -- (discernible) -- and airing them through  
16 Channel 9.

17 MR. EMERSON: Okay, would Ruth Sepogakak like to speak,  
18 please?

19 RUTH: (native language)

20 INTERPRETER: I will talk about what I have seen on  
21 the tracks on your map and what I have heard about selling and  
22 not selling. The ocean is not a land and before I have heard  
23 that the ocean is not for ownership.

24 RUTH: (native language)

25 INTERPRETER: I have talked at meetings because I have

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1 lived and have been raised up here and because my parents are  
2 from here and having people to live side by side with.

3 RUTH: (native language)

4 INTERPRETER: As you know, Powtou will be a drilling  
5 place, but you should also know that there are graves down  
6 there. It's also a hunting area and animals have lived there.  
7 And the people that are drilling have ruined the place already  
8 where they have hunted animals before.

9 RUTH: (native language)

10 INTERPRETER: When I was small I learned how to hunt  
11 the true Eskimo way and I have also lived the true Eskimo way  
12 before the white man came.

13 RUTH: (native language)

14 INTERPRETER: When I was small I had never seen a  
15 white man. I have only seen three white men here, one was a  
16 storekeeper and one was a helper.

17 RUTH: (native language)

18 INTERPRETER: When I was small we never saw real money  
19 so my father hunted and trapped in order to get us the  
20 necessary white man's food.

21 RUTH: (native language)

22 INTERPRETER: We lived a hard time when we were growing  
23 up. There was not even a school.

24 RUTH: (native language)

25 INTERPRETER: White people have started coming here

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1 and now it's getting so more white people are coming just so  
2 that they could start drilling.

3 RUTH: (native language)

4 INTERPRETER: Even though I am a woman, I have hunted  
5 when I was small. Even up to now I have still hunted.

6 RUTH: (native language)

7 INTERPRETER: Having learned how to hunt from my  
8 parents and from other people.

9 RUTH: (native language)

10 INTERPRETER: The ocean that you have on your lease  
11 sale, she is very against. She does not want it to be on  
12 sale. She does not have it in her mind.

13 RUTH: (native language)

14 INTERPRETER: We the people of Nuigsut, when we look  
15 around our village, we see the white people are circling our  
16 villages with their drilling.

17 RUTH: (native language)

18 INTERPRETER: I have heard one person talking that  
19 where he had hunted and trapped they had gone over his traps  
20 so he was going to move his traps away from that area.

21 RUTH: (native language)

22 INTERPRETER: We who are living here are having a hard  
23 time with buying diesel, it's real hard having to live here  
24 without oil.

25 RUTH: (native language)

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1 INTERPRETER: I think the oil people have lied to us  
2 about the cleanups that will be successful. But, as you know,  
3 the oil spills, when they do have an oil spill, the oil really  
4 runs fast.

5 RUTH: (native language)

6 INTERPRETER: I am very much opposed to selling the  
7 proposed area that you have on your map and I have also heard  
8 that the ocean does not belong to anybody.

9 RUTH: (native language)

10 INTERPRETER: I have never heard about an ocean  
11 belonging to anybody.

12 RUTH: (native language)

13 INTERPRETER: I, myself, having lived at the land,  
14 this is too close to our hunting area, so I am opposing all  
15 of your lease sale.

16 MR. EMERSON: Thank you.

17 Our next speaker will be Thomas Nefogiak.

18 THOMAS: My name is Thomas (Indiscernible), Mayor of  
19 Nuigsut. I would like a brief moment of your time to testify  
20 on the proposal that we have in front of us, on the Diaper  
21 Field Sale No. 71. But first I'd like to interpret what's  
22 in the page -- what page, the local people of our village.

23 (native language)

24 MR. EMERSON: Well, it's an estimate based on two  
25 different types of assumptions. One, the 6 was a spill rate

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1 that was determined from Prudhoe Bay operations, which were  
2 thought to be somewhat similar to a gravel island operation,  
3 since we don't have any statistics. The 8 is based on a  
4 larger date of base which would be activities and expected  
5 spills based on what has happened in the Gulf of Mexico.

6 THOMAS: (native language)

7 ....the North Slope oil's lawsuit against Hammond. The  
8 village of Nuigsut along with Point Hope has joined the North  
9 Slope oil and filed a lawsuit against all lease sales beyond  
10 their islands. The filing date was November 1979 and, accord-  
11 ing to records, the last court argument was in March 1981 at  
12 Barrow. No decision from Alaska Supreme Court. And to  
13 further give you more information of the ideas of some of  
14 the people that are here in the audience tonight, they are  
15 saying that from Cross Island to the point of Cape Halkett,  
16 direct line, nothing toward land should be on lease sale,  
17 due to the animals and birds and fish that the Village of  
18 Nuigsut depends on.

19 We also stand firmly on the lawsuit that we have  
20 against Hammond.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. EMERSON: Thank you. The next testifier would be  
23 Joe Erikluk.

24 JOE: (native language)

25 MR. EMERSON: Could you move over closer and speak

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1 into the microphone.

2 JOE: (native language)

3 INTERPRETER: The people here that are with me tonight  
4 are opposing the lease sale that you have on your map, having  
5 been here as a resident of Nuigsut.

6 JOE: (native language)

7 INTERPRETER: They are hunting grounds and also the  
8 place where we have fished. If we have an oil spill, these  
9 people know what is going to happen.

10 JOE: (native language)

11 INTERPRETER: All of us that are here tonight, I think  
12 are opposed to this lease sale and we are not happy about this.

13 JOE: (native language)

14 INTERPRETER: I just wanted to say that I am opposing  
15 the lease sale. That's why I am giving a small testimony.

16 MR. EMERSON: Thank you.

17 The next testifier would be Ely Nepogigkak.

18 ELY: As you have heard, most of the elders that are  
19 speaking here opposing the lease sale which will be affecting  
20 our subsistent lifestyle and our way of life. We as a village  
21 have been having hearings, past hearings, and they ignore our  
22 recommendations and our comments in the past. This issue of  
23 a million and a half acres is in the Arctic Ocean in Pepeshee  
24 and this is where (indiscernible) that we're subsistent on,  
25 most of our people here live on. The fish, the milo that are

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1 that are in this area will be affected by oil spill and our  
2 way of living will be, too, because this off shore is some-  
3 thing to think about, even though most of our people are in  
4 the public areas that decide about it. And us local, we say  
5 our voice but they ignore us from our saying. So we oppose  
6 this off shore lease sale. Thank you.

7 MR. EMERSON: Thank you.

8 The next, Joe Nepogigkak.

9 JOE: The case we established when (indiscernible) 8  
10 years ago (indiscernible) at Barrow and I didn't even know  
11 (indiscernible). Although my parents, grandparents (indis-  
12 cernible). In those 8 years have I come to know my land  
13 that I have (indiscernible) and I have followed my parents'  
14 travels to the Simpson (indiscernible) all the way to Cape  
15 Halkett, and last year I and a couple of my brothers went out  
16 seal hunting for 20 miles out. Although there's a lot of  
17 seals out there, there's a lot of sea mammals. And also we,  
18 as a hunting party, while we were out there ice came, ice  
19 pack came, never even realizing that it came upon. Time and  
20 time again our elders have spoken of the ice pack and I am  
21 afraid, you know, that with this off shore lease sale pro-  
22 posal they really won't account for it. I know that (indis-  
23 cernible) statements, a fact that this village will tell.  
24 What benefits are we going to get? I don't want no handouts,  
25 on the cuff. Because I dip them out the fish, sea mammals

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1 that I have learned to call and love to eat. And I have seen  
2 (indiscernible) eggs, eggs are summertime. And there is  
3 thousands and thousands of young sea birds that's come. I  
4 have seen them with my own. And since then (indiscernible).  
5 How would you bet there is going to be (indiscernible). I  
6 know they won't. Eventually there's a oil spill. All sea  
7 mammals going crazy at this point.

8 And in going through some of this that I have gone  
9 through, employment in my village is something like 50%. And  
10 according to this summary that I went through, it seems like  
11 no natives -- not going to get any benefits for. Although we  
12 know (indiscernible) have greatly helped us by providing  
13 employment through construction, schools have been erected.  
14 And but mostly the village here is mostly depends on fish.  
15 Every family here in the summertime go out camp, they are  
16 busy gathering fish, seals, for the wintertime. And instead  
17 (indiscernible) with no leases because of this (indiscernible)  
18 that might be, that might have happened, in the future.  
19 That's the least. (Indiscernible) in the middle of the state  
20 and federal land. Be right in the middle of it. State says  
21 they're leasing out land. Federal say they are proposing  
22 lease sale in (indiscernible). Now the federal government  
23 want to propose the lease sale right here in front of where  
24 my meat comes. What testing our weak point, I don't know  
25 what test (indiscernible).

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1           There is going to be a lot of impact and you never  
2 realize what's going to happen in 10 years from now, until  
3 15 years from now, whatever. Myself, I want to continue  
4 living here because that's where I live, it's my land.  
5 Although Prudhoe Bay has been a precious oil field in North  
6 America, none of our natives have been employed, maybe a  
7 few people there in certain villages.

8           And right now maybe two people are employed from this  
9 village, although there's a bit (indiscernible). And I call  
10 upon you right now, like what Thomas has recommended, which  
11 I pray to myself that is what (indiscernible). And that's  
12 where Nuigsut livelihood is at. This area is pretty sensi-  
13 tive to noise and whatnot that man makes up here in the Arctic.

14           I have had the privilege to travel all the way from  
15 (indiscernible) to Hope about four years ago. All the way I  
16 (indiscernible) or at one time halfway (indiscernible) we  
17 encountered a big wave and it was so we had to camp for a  
18 couple of days because of the ice that came. Just imagine  
19 what will happen. Nowadays the ice pack comes in a little  
20 bit unexpected, although we may be maybe 10 miles out, ice  
21 comes in pretty fast. I think there should be some conser-  
22 vation, there should be local people (indiscernible) they  
23 should work together so that whenever there's oil drilling  
24 activities someplace that we closely monitor it. Eskimos  
25 have been known as experts in sea ice. Sea ice moves fast.

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1           And, also, I have learned a lot from going with my  
2 parents or going out hunting with my elders. That's been  
3 from the time has been passed on to us verbal. What the  
4 result, you know already. So I oppose this lease sale  
5 providing there is -- it's technology that is excess. Yes,  
6 sir, technology excess right now within the oil companies  
7 that feel safe, I don't know. That's worked okay. That's  
8 fine. Let's find out what's out there before we (indiscernible)  
9 sea ice, but only it will benefit you and I, and that we  
10 will have -- we will understand now (indiscernible) more and  
11 more to (indiscernible). I thank you.

12           MR. JEFFERY: I have a question. You mentioned earlier  
13 about there was about a 50 percent employment factor in the  
14 village and then you mentioned two people were employed in  
15 oil and gas activities, is that correct?

16           JOE: At the present time I do, or two that I know.

17           MR. JEFFERY: But the 50 percent employment factor  
18 in the village did not mean related to oil and gas activities?

19           JOE: Fifty percent (indiscernible).

20           MR. JEFFERY: Thank you very much.

21           MR. EMERSON: Our next testifier will be Ruth Chilak.

22           RUTH: (native language)

23           INTERPRETER: I don't have much to say but on behalf  
24 of the people that I live with here in Nuigsut, I just want  
25 to say a few words.

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1 RUTH: (native language)

2 INTERPRETER: I want to back up my people.

3 RUTH: (native language)

4 INTERPRETER: That's all I have to say.

5 MR. EMERSON: Thank you very much.

6 The next will be Mark Armacot.

7 MARK: I'm going to try and approach the stand  
8 (indiscernible) and I have been testifying ever since way  
9 back to when the White Thompson lease sale started.

10 (native language)

11 At this point I'd like to start off by saying that  
12 we the Inupiat culture, in my own opinion, are being treated  
13 as third-class citizens. The reason why I say that is  
14 because, first, as United States citizens; second, as the  
15 State of Alaska citizen; and, thirdly, as a class of our own,  
16 the "Inupiat culture" in which we of that culture  
17 should be first because we have never been conquered nor have  
18 we entered into any treaty with the U.S.A. But be that as it  
19 may, of all the many suggestions and recommendations we make  
20 on some of these lease sales, putting it on record, getting  
21 into black and white, and all you do is just put it there,  
22 make sure it's there. Just pass by it, look at it, maybe  
23 make the big decision down in the Washington area. The  
24 Secretary of Interior was instructed to go ahead with this  
25 OCS 5-year leased land.

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1           In one of the statements it says that with very careful  
2 planning in regards to the human, animals, mammals and whatnot,  
3 and also for the benefit of the nation. If it's going to  
4 work that way, as you can see already, us here we have to pay  
5 so much for our diesel. Why is that? Since our neighbors  
6 are just right nextdoor. Is it because oil companies are  
7 transporting it down to the tank fill area down in Valdez?  
8 Why can't we get the benefit of getting a pipeline into here?  
9 Or even better yet, you can see all of these lights here,  
10 better yet if there is natural gas right out here, why not get  
11 hooked up just like Barrow? As you can see, some of us are  
12 living in two different worlds, the western culture and the  
13 Inupiat culture.

14           It is hard to live that way but it is still hard to go  
15 one way more than the other, but I believe it can work with  
16 careful planning with the elders, with the state, with the  
17 federal. We were brought up in this cash economy business  
18 so we have to depend on the cash economy business. Some of  
19 our elders there had never seen money way back then, but us  
20 we grew up with money. My mother was born here. My parents  
21 used to live here and they were instructed to take my brothers  
22 to Barrow for education, which was a mandate reason. So,  
23 therefore, they moved us to Barrow. After the Native Land  
24 Claim Settlement Act we had an opportunity to get together and  
25 come back here. So that's why we are here, we want to go back

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1 to our subsistence way of life. In order to do that we have  
2 to spend cash, employment. Even though we don't really care  
3 about your white man's food, we grew up on that. But we like  
4 the (indiscernible) food better. The nutritional value cannot  
5 be equated with the nutritional value you have.

6 I oppose this sale at this present time providing, as  
7 Joe stated earlier, let's work together and find out what  
8 technology we can come up with in order to cope with the  
9 environment at the ocean. We need to survive as Inupiat  
10 culture. We have survived as Inupiat culture. And we will  
11 survive as Inupiat culture. Thank you.

12 MR. EMERSON: Thank you very much.

13 Next, Sarah Kuniknana.

14 SARAH: (native language)

15 INTERPRETER: I am hoping that I will be of some help  
16 to my people.

17 SARAH: (native language)

18 INTERPRETER: You have already heard me a little while  
19 ago, but I still want to say something.

20 SARAH: (native language)

21 INTERPRETER: I like to eat the food that I grew up  
22 with.

23 SARAH: (native language)

24 INTERPRETER: When you eat fresh animals that are  
25 freshly killed they are a delicacy to us and they are also --

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1 they also give us strength to our bodies.

2 SARAH: (native language)

3 INTERPRETER: Having eaten these animals from the time  
4 I could remember, when I start eating white man's food I  
5 always miss the Eskimo food.

6 SARAH: (native language)

7 INTERPRETER: I used to hunt a lot before but now I  
8 hunt only a few and when people offer me food I am always  
9 happy.

10 SARAH: (native language)

11 INTERPRETER: We being Eskimos having shared our food  
12 with each other for a long time cannot bear to see the other  
13 Eskimos starving.

14 SARAH: (native language)

15 INTERPRETER: Up to now even our younger people here  
16 when they have hunted and they have caught either fresh  
17 animals or anything fresh from the land or from the ocean  
18 they give some to their elders. They don't have to buy it.

19 SARAH: (native language)

20 INTERPRETER: During the springtime we can hardly wait  
21 for the month of June to come, thinking of the animals that  
22 will be coming.

23 SARAH: (native language)

24 INTERPRETER: All summer long 'til fall time the  
25 animals have come up.

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1 SARAH: (native language)

2 INTERPRETER: Even the animals that came up from inland  
3 go down to the ocean during the fall time.

4 SARAH: (native language)

5 INTERPRETER: Hoping that this will be of help to this  
6 lease sale, that is what I have to say.

7 SARAH: (native language)

8 INTERPRETER: Having been raised near Prudhoe Bay,  
9 there has been an abundance of animals when I was growing up  
10 around there. Animals were around us all year-round.

11 SARAH: (native language)

12 INTERPRETER: Having been raised in Cross Island with  
13 my parents and my brothers and sisters, we have never known  
14 hunger around that area.

15 SARAH: (native language)

16 INTERPRETER: And, also, the foxes that we trapped  
17 could be traded or sold to the stores in abundance.

18 SARAH: (native language)

19 (Tape ran out - nothing on side 2 of tape 2)

20 MR. EMERSON: Bessie Eriklog.

21 BESSIE: (native language)

22 INTERPRETER: I want to help the people that are  
23 opposed to the lease sale. I, myself, am opposing it. I  
24 have lived here from 1920 to 1950 and I know how to hunt on  
25 the ocean and on the land that surrounds this area, and I

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1 am strongly opposing the lease sale.

2 BESSIE: (native language)

3 INTERPRETER: I have helped for two years when they  
4 first started mapping out this area with the people from the  
5 North Slope oil and with the other oil people. Even though  
6 it has been dangerous sometimes, even though I was tired, I  
7 have helped them map this area.

8 BESSIE: (native language)

9 INTERPRETER: During the winter we don't live at  
10 Powtou but we have hunted around that area and I am really  
11 opposing the sale.

12 BESSIE: (native language)

13 INTERPRETER: And that's all I have to say.

14 MR. EMERSON: Thank you.

15 That's all the people that we have registered to  
16 testify. Is there anyone that would still like to say  
17 something? Okay.

18 AUDIENCE MEMBER: I'm Isa Srealith.

19 MR. EMERSON: Would you spell your last name, please?

20 ISA: S-r-e-a-l-i-t-h.

21 MR. JEFFERY: And what was your first name?

22 ISA: Isa, I-s-a.

23 (native language)

24 INTERPRETER: I don't have much to say but I want to,  
25 on behalf of my people here, I am opposing the lease sale.

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1 That's all.

2 MR. EMERSON: Thank you very much.

3 Is there anyone else in the audience that would like  
4 to speak on this proposed lease sale?

5 INTERPRETER: Her name is Nanny Woods.

6 MR. JEFFERY: Could we have the spelling on her last  
7 name?

8 INTERPRETER: On the last name?

9 MR. JEFFERY: Yes.

10 INTERPRETER: W-o-o-d-s.

11 I want to be of help to these people on this oil sale.

12 MS. WOODS: (native language)

13 INTERPRETER: The people here have already said a lot  
14 tonight.

15 MS. WOODS: (native language)

16 INTERPRETER: They have already talked about the  
17 rivers that contain and the animals that they have hunted  
18 around here, even during springtime.

19 MS. WOODS: (native language)

20 INTERPRETER: She wants to know if you people know  
21 that she has a house by Cross Island.

22 MS. WOODS: No, by the Delta River.

23 INTERPRETER: Or by the Delta River.

24 MS. WOODS: Yes. (native language)

25 INTERPRETER: Her husband is buried there at the place

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1 that Delta.

2 MS. WOODS: No, Colville River.

3 INTERPRETER: Colville River delta.

4 MS. WOODS: Yes. (native language)

5 INTERPRETER: We go down there during the summer when  
6 the fishing season is on.

7 MS. WOODS: (native language)

8 INTERPRETER: And even during the winters they net  
9 for fish down there.

10 MS. WOODS: (native language)

11 INTERPRETER: I am opposed to the lease sale. My  
12 house is right around that area.

13 MR. EMERSON: Is there anyone else that would like  
14 to testify?

15 Okay, we want to thank you -- oh, pardon me, all  
16 right.

17 INTERPRETER: Louise Ahkiviana, A-h-k-i-v-i-a-n-a.

18 LOUISE: (native language)

19 INTERPRETER: My children being here and my husband  
20 having lived here, I am really enjoying that place here.

21 LOUISE: (native language)

22 INTERPRETER: She wanted to say that she is opposed  
23 to the lease sale on behalf of herself and the people that  
24 she lives with.

25 MR. EMERSON: Thank you very much. A couple of

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1 people indicated that they would like to speak again after  
2 they heard some of the other folks. All right.

3 State your name again, please.

4 EDWARD: Edward Dukakpigak.

5 (native language)

6 INTERPRETER: He is totally against the lease sale  
7 of that area.

8 EDWARD: (native language)

9 INTERPRETER: Being a Captain of a whaling crew and  
10 also knowing how to catch a whale.

11 EDWARD: (native language)

12 INTERPRETER: In the event that in the future that  
13 I might want to go whaling out there again, I do not want  
14 the drillers to be in my way.

15 EDWARD: (native language)

16 INTERPRETER: There is no way to be near the drillers  
17 when you want to go out hunting and if they start drilling  
18 out there, all you can do is look at the animals instead of  
19 hunting them.

20 EDWARD: (native language)

21 INTERPRETER: Having lot of sons to be whalers, and  
22 wanting to start a whaling crew again, I have a lot of  
23 sons, that I want them to be whalers, I do not want anything  
24 to get in the way.

25 EDWARD: (native language)

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1 INTERPRETER: If they want to drill around the land  
2 they can do so, but I don't want to worry about the people  
3 drilling out in the ocean.

4 EDWARD: (native language)

5 INTERPRETER: When the oil company people come here  
6 they have made promises to my sons that they would get jobs,  
7 but now they are still without jobs.

8 EDWARD: (native language)

9 INTERPRETER: Even if we did proceed with the lease  
10 sale I do not want any of their money because I do not  
11 want them to disturb the animals here.

12 EDWARD: (native language)

13 INTERPRETER: Looking at the states and our people  
14 here and the way their gardens and their animals have died  
15 out in the cold season, I don't want the United States and  
16 our people here to die starving.

17 EDWARD: (native language)

18 INTERPRETER: He is not opposed to the drilling that  
19 can be done inland as long as they avoid the rivers where  
20 there are fishing and hunting areas, but he is really opposed  
21 to the sale that you have on your map.

22 EDWARD: (native language)

23 INTERPRETER: He is opposing the lease sale.

24 MR. EMERSON: Thank you.

25 SARAH: (native language)

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1 INTERPRETER: Having a brother and two younger  
2 siblings around Cape Halkett, she is really opposed to that  
3 area and she is dissatisfied, too, about the people that are  
4 going to be making the platforms for unloading around that  
5 area.

6 SARAH: (native language)

7 INTERPRETER: If they're going to be making platforms  
8 for unloading, they should avoid Cape Halkett area because  
9 there are also regulations that prohibit doing that, es-  
10 pecially when there are gravesites to be considered.

11 SARAH: (native language)

12 INTERPRETER: There are quite a few gravesites at  
13 that area, right near the fuel line site.

14 SARAH: (native language)

15 INTERPRETER: Even though the white people have  
16 looked at the gravesites even before they have started  
17 building, they have fuel there.

18 SARAH: (native language)

19 INTERPRETER: And if they are going to do this they  
20 should totally destroy everything, even the grave marker,  
21 even the graves.

22 SARAH: (native language)

23 INTERPRETER: She wants an explanation or an answer  
24 if the people that are going to be drilling or getting gravel  
25 out from that area, are they going to destroy the gravesites

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1 that are located on that area?

2 MR. EMERSON(?): No, these areas are designated and  
3 they wouldn't be allowed to have that kind of activity occur  
4 there.

5 SARAH: (native language)

6 INTERPRETER: Even though there are regulations  
7 stating that, they are still going to make platforms around  
8 that area.

9 VOICE: She means the lease sale area.

10 SARAH: (native language)

11 INTERPRETER: She's talking about how you're going to  
12 be transporting if you start drilling out there and making  
13 causeways or make platforms, which route are you going to  
14 be taking if you're going to be taking the (indiscernible)  
15 route or are you going to where the gravesites are?

16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: If the gravesites are known, the  
17 location is known, why, there would be no construction acti-  
18 vity occurring there. That includes transportation like  
19 pipeline routing would not proceed over that area.

20 SARAH: (native language)

21 INTERPRETER: She does not want any activity going on  
22 through Cape Halkett and if there is any way that you can  
23 avoid going through there, if there's any activities going  
24 there, she really wants that place off limits.

25 SARAH: (native language)

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1 INTERPRETER: And on those, thinking of these that  
2 she had in mind, that's why she asked. She came up here to  
3 speak again.

4 MR. EMERSON: Thank you very much.

5 Is there anyone else that would like to add something  
6 in addition?

7 I want to thank you for your participation in these  
8 hearings. Remember that, also, if you do have some other  
9 thoughts on this subject that you can submit those in writing  
10 or call us at the Anchorage OCS Office. We need those, though,  
11 by February 12th. Thank you again for coming.

12 These hearings are closed.

13 \*\*\*\*\*  
14 END OF PROCEEDINGS  
15 \*\*\*\*\*

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